REMARKS

The Office Action of July 12, 2006 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the present remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6, 8-11, 13-15 and 17-20 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter, which indication is appreciatively acknowledged.

Claims 1, 6, 9, 13-15 and 17 were rejected as being anticipated by Lund. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Lund discloses connecting to (e.g., dialing up) a server, entering a phone number or name (e.g., by touch tone) of a person, and in response providing additional contact information for that person. Lund does not teach or suggest, *inter alia*:

As in claim 1,
    a user entering into the electronic device a network address of a party whose phone number information is to be retrieved (the person's name is not a "network address");
    the electronic device sending a request to a server in accordance with the network protocol, the request containing a *predictable variant* of said address (in Lund, the device sends exactly what is entered by the user—no more, no less).

As in claims 6 and 9,
    if a string entered by a user is a telephone number, establishing a desired telecommuncations connection directly using the telephone number (in Lund, entry of a telephone number only ever results in the retrieval of other contact information);

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if the character string is not a telephone number, establishing a preliminary telecommuncations connection using the character string (the preliminary telecommunications connection in Lund is established by calling a telephone number).

As in claim 13,

sending a request to a server in accordance with an Internet protocol, the request containing a *predictable variant* of an addressed entered by a user into the electronic device (in Lund, the device sends exactly what is entered by the user— no more, no less; Lund does not use an Internet protocol but merely uses dial tone).

As in claim 14,

transparently prefacing the communication with a network communications exchange, established based on an electronic address of the party with which communications is to be established, to obtain information for communicating with said party (in Lund, the network communications exchange is not transparent—the user must manually query the server and then, if the user chooses, manually use the contact information returned by the server).

Claims 2-5, 7-8, 10-12 and 16 were rejected as being unpatentable over Lund in view of Wood et al. This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

Woods describes a computer-telephone integration solution. A web interface is provided to various telephone directories. A directory entry is shown as including a name, a phone number and an e-mail ID. By selecting an entry and clicking on DIAL, the phone number is dialed in an "out of band" manner, by sending the number from the web system 30 through the call control system 32 to the telephone switch 16. As described in col. 6 of Wood, a distinctive ring signal is then sent to prompt the calling party to take his telephone off-hook. The called number is then rung.

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The e-mail ID in the directory has nothing to do with telephony per se. By clicking on it, a new email is opened addressed to the person whose name is listed in that entry.

With respect to claim 2, Wood does not teach automatic dialing of a telephone number sent to the electronic device in the manner of claim 1. In Wood, the user must select and entry and click "DIAL." In the invention of claim 2, once the number is sent to the electronic device, it is automatically dialed without any action of the user.

With respect to claim 3, Wood does not teach that the desired phone number information is a hypertext phone directory page, i.e., a page in which directory entries are themselves "clickable." The directory entries in Wood are not clickable. Similarly, with respect to claim 4, Wood does not teach selecting a link within the hypertext phone directory page and displaying a further hypertext phone directory page. And, since Wood does not teach or suggest the use of a hypertext phone directory page, it cannot teach or suggest the features of claim 5.

Wood emphatically does not teach or suggest anything like the features of claim 7. That is, Wood does not teach or suggest the use of an email protocol such as SMTP for a preliminary telecommunications connection used to retrieve telephone number information. While such protocols are of course themselves well know, the use of such a protocol in the manner claimed in not taught or suggested by Wood.

With respect to claims 8 and 10-12, Wood does not remedy the deficiencies of Lund with respect to base claims 6 and 9, respectively, as set forth above.

With respect to claim 16, of course one can use cryptography for added security for communication over the Internet. This statement, however, does not address the features of the claim. According to the claim, a communication is transparently prefaced with a network communication exchange based on an electronic address of the party. *During this transparent network communication exchange,* a cryptographic key is

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obtained and used to communicate with the party. Wood does not teach or suggest any such feature.

In summary, Lund does not anticipate, teach or suggest numerous important features of the independent claims. Wood does not remedy these deficiencies. Further with respect to the combination of Lund and Wood, the rejection in its treatment of many of the dependent claims glosses over claimed features not taught or suggested by the combination of references.

Repeated Office Actions and repeated rejections have failed to show prior art that teaches or suggests the invention as claimed. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-17 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
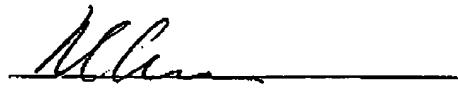
Michael J. Ure

Dated: July 18, 2006

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